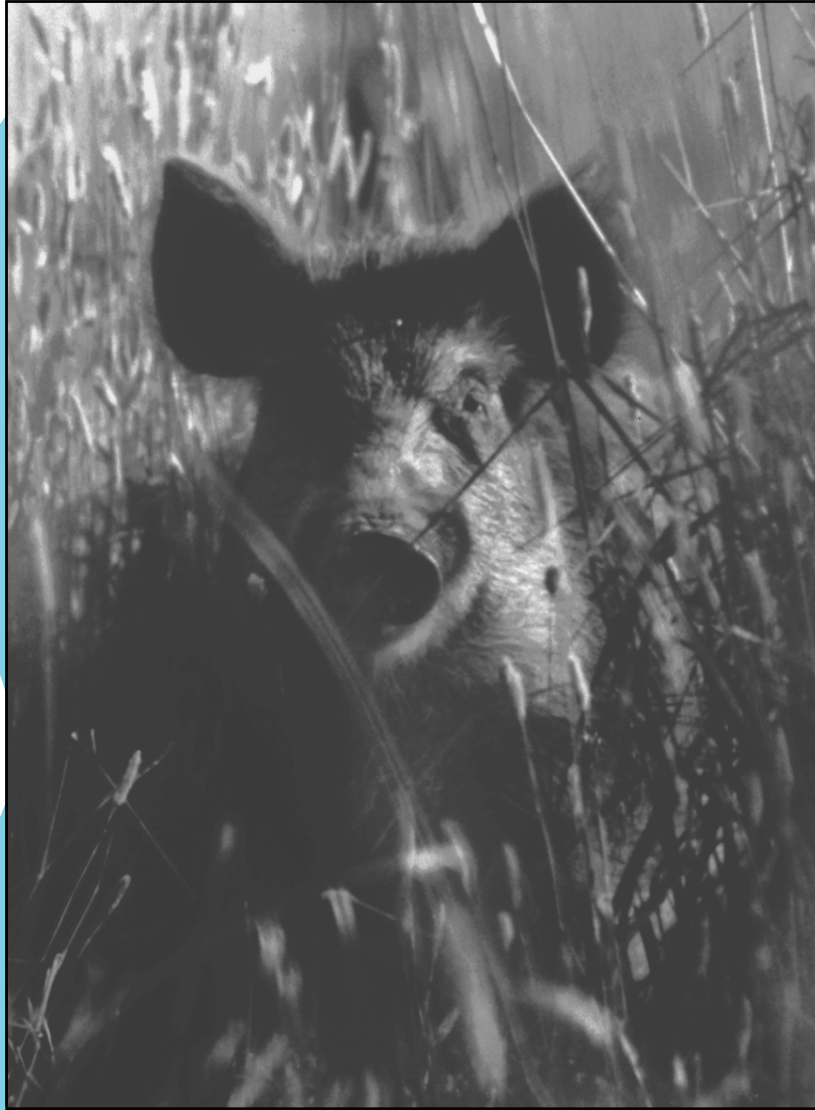


# GUIDE TO HUNTING WILD PIGS IN CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
WILDLIFE PROGRAMS BRANCH





# GUIDE TO HUNTING WILD PIGS IN CALIFORNIA

If you are interested in wild pig hunting in California, this guide will provide information on hunting methods, hunting areas, necessary equipment, and the legal requirements for hunting wild pigs.

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# GENERAL BACKGROUND

## HISTORY AS A GAME SPECIES IN CALIFORNIA

Pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are not native to North America and did not exist in California before the early 1700s. Spanish and Russian explorers and settlers introduced domestic swine to California and allowed them to forage freely, especially in the fall, to take advantage of fallen acorns. This practice allowed many pigs to become “feral.” Since those early days, the odd domestic pig has escaped and been added to the wild population. In the 1920s, a Monterey County landowner introduced the European wild boar, a wild subspecies of *Sus scrofa*, into California. European wild stock from this introduction bred with the established feral pig population, resulting in a wild boar/feral domestic pig hybrid.

Prior to the mid-1950s, wild pigs were unclassified under state law. During this period, wild pigs could be killed with no restrictions. In 1957, the wild pig was designated as a game mammal by the State Legislature. To manage this resource according to the goals established by the Legislature, the Fish and Game Commission established hunting seasons, bag and possession limits, methods of take and conditions for using dogs. *Fish and Game Code (FGC)*, Sections 4650 through 4657, were added in 1992. They require hunters to possess wild pig license tags to hunt wild pigs. When a wild pig is taken, hunters are required to place the tag on the carcass, answer the questions on the other portion of the tag, and return the tag to the California Department of Fish and Game. This requirement provides the Department with wild pig harvest information and funding for the management of wild pigs.



Wild pig in grasslands. DFG staff photo.

The number of wild pigs taken before the mid-1950s is unknown. The Department initiated the *Game Take Hunter Survey* in 1957; at first the estimated wild pig harvest was relatively low (see Table 1). Beginning in the mid-1960s, both the harvest numbers and the number of counties where wild pigs were harvested have steadily increased. The lower average harvest in the 1990s probably reflects the effects of the long drought that started in the late 1980s, which reduced pig populations. Wild pigs currently exist in at least 56 of the state’s 58 counties.

Table 1. Average Wild Pig Harvest Per Decade in California

Decade	Average Annual Harvest	Average Annual Hunter Numbers
1960-1969	8,940	13,820
1970-1979	22,710	27,260
1980-1989	40,120	40,100
1990-1999	30,222	34,558

NATURAL HISTORY

Physical Description

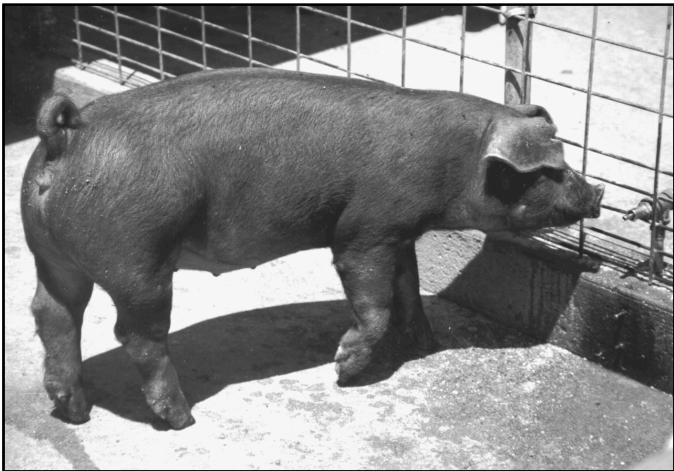
Legally, any pig that is not branded or confined is considered a wild pig. However, most hunters have a physical description in mind for the term “wild pig.” Table 2 describes the generalized physical difference between typical domestic and wild pigs. The appearance of many wild pigs falls somewhere in between the examples.

Table 2. General Physical Differences Between Wild and Domestic Pigs

Physical Characteristic	Wild Pigs	Domestic Pigs
Hair	Abundantly covered with course, long hair	Sparsely covered with short hair
Ears	Relatively small, erect, and hairy; tufted at the tips	Relatively large, floppy, and hairless
Tail	Covered with hair; tasseled at the end with long, course hairs; and straight	Sparsely haired and curly
Body	Lean, shoulders higher and wider than hindquarters; razor-backed	Back flat, body wide and uniformly thick
Tusks	Long and sharp (if unbroken)	Relatively short
Head	Longer snout, flat profile	Shorter snout, concave profile
Color	Predominantly black or pied, russet,	Usually uniformly white, sometimes russet or pink
Young	Often dark with horizontal stripes	Same uniform color as parents



Wild pig. DFG staff photo.



Domestic pig. DFG staff photo.



## Basic Biology

**Reproduction** – The wild pig population has the potential to triple every year. When conditions are optimal, wild pig sows can produce two litters of five to six piglets per year.

The breeding rate is highly dependent on environmental conditions. When environmental conditions are unfavorable (e.g., drought or crop failure), birth rates are lower and mortality of young wild pigs can be quite high. If these conditions are particularly severe or predation is exceptionally high, the population will decrease.

**Food** – Wild pigs are omnivorous and consume a wide variety of available foods, including both plant and animal matter. Their food includes acorns, grasses, forbs, berries, bulbs, tubers, invertebrates, reptiles, birds, eggs, and animal carcasses. In general, wild pigs feed on: grasses and forbs in the spring; mast and fruits in the summer and fall; and roots, tubers and invertebrates throughout the year.

## Habitat Requirements

As long as water and some cover are present, wild pigs are found in many habitats – woodland, chaparral, riparian, marshes and open grassland. They are comfortable on flat to very steep terrain. They do not tend to inhabit deserts, high mountains with substantial winter snowfall, alpine areas, or intensive agricultural areas where cover is scarce. In California, they are most abundant in the oak woodlands interspersed with grassland.

## Behavior

As with all game species, wild pig behavior tends to change as hunting pressure increases. Where hunting is a rare occurrence, wild pigs are active in the daytime, though they become less active in hot weather. With moderate hunting, they bed down around sunrise and become active again in the late afternoon. When they are heavily hunted, they generally feed only at night. Depending on the density and abundance of cover, wild pigs tend to leave an area where hunting pressure becomes severe.



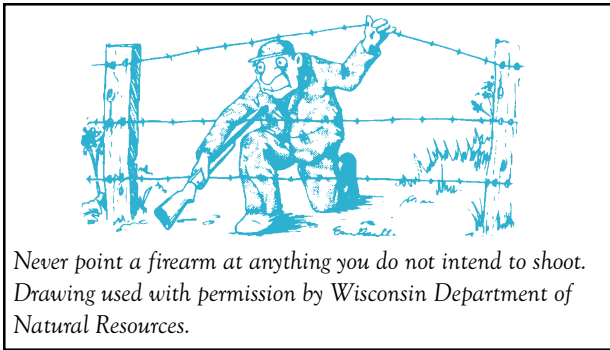
*Wild piglet. The stripes show European wild boar ancestry.  
Photo by Mark Salvestrin.*

Female wild pigs are generally considered social, not solitary, as they are usually found in family groups. As they approach one year of age, boars are often seen alone, though they sometimes join family groups during breeding.



*Wild pig in grassland habitat. DFG staff photo.*

# GENERAL HUNTING CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



## SAFETY

Firearms are designed to be lethal; great care needs to be taken while transporting, cleaning, and hunting with them. The 10 basic rules of firearms safety are as follows:

- (1) control the direction of your firearm's muzzle, do not ever pull a firearm towards you by the muzzle;
- (2) identify your target and be aware of what is behind your target (e.g., do not take skyline shots);
- (3) treat every firearm as if it were loaded;
- (4) be sure your barrel is free from any obstruction and that you are using the correct ammunition;
- (5) unload firearms when not in use and carry firearms unloaded except when actually hunting;
- (6) never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot;
- (7) never climb a fence or tree, or leap a ditch with a loaded firearm;
- (8) never shoot a bullet at water or a flat, hard surface;
- (9) store firearms and ammunition separately, away from children and careless adults; and
- (10) do not drink alcohol or take drugs before or while shooting.

For those hunters who plan on using archery equip-

ment, the following rules need to be considered:

- (1) because of the energy stored when a bow is drawn, make sure your bow and arrows are free from cracks or breaks, and the string is not cut or frayed;
- (2) always carry your broadhead arrows in a strong quiver that fully covers the tips and blades;
- (3) identify your target and be aware of what is behind your target (e.g., do not take skyline shots);
- (4) never shoot an arrow straight up in the air;
- (5) never point a drawn bow in the direction of anything that you do not want to hit;
- (7) never climb a fence without first placing your bow and arrows on the other side, away from where you are crossing;
- (8) never carry your equipment in a vehicle where a sudden stop could cause them to become deadly missiles; and
- (9) be sure to use the correct methods and equipment when stringing a bow.

Other safety considerations relate to fitness, health, and outdoor skills. Before you go wild pig hunting, consider whether you have the physical fitness required for the strenuous activity involved. Always carry water to avoid dehydration, and dress appropriately to avoid hypothermia. Always take a compass, maps of the area, and matches. If you get lost, *don't panic!* Stop and think about your problem. Plan what you are going to do. The general rule is to stay put and build a fire (if legal). If you try to find your way out, be sure to mark your path so that you can return to where you started.

This checklist is provided to help you remember to take everything that you need. Many of the items are optional and are noted accordingly.

- Firearm or bow
- Ammunition or arrows
- Hunting license
- Wild pig license tag(s)
- Knife and sharpener
- String to attach tag to carcass
- Hunter orange hat, vest, or jacket
- Boots
- Day or fanny pack
- Compass
- Firearm cleaning gear
- Matches
- Binoculars
- Map of hunting area
- Canteen of water
- First aid kit
- Rubber gloves and towel
- Rope and gambrel
- Bottle of talcum powder to detect wind direction (optional)
- Pack frame for carrying carcass (optional)
- Rain gear (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Insect repellent (optional)



**ETHICS** A few hunting essentials: canteen, matches, compass, map, knife, pig tags, and first aid kit. Photo by Karen R. Fothergill.

Hunting ethics are personal and often difficult to define. However, recent hunting conferences and published studies have stressed the need for hunters to

improve their image. The vast majority of Californians do not hunt, but studies have shown that as long as hunting is viewed as ethical, the majority of Americans are tolerant of hunting. If the general public begins to view hunters as unethical, there is a chance that the majority could become intolerant of hunting, and it could become illegal. Every time the news media reports hunters damaging property, poaching, trespassing, hunting while drunk, or endangering others, the sport becomes more at risk. Every hunter must be aware that they are responsible for their own ethical behavior.

## REQUIRED LICENSES AND TAGS

A California hunting license, either resident or nonresident, must be carried by the hunter when hunting and is required to take any bird or mammal in the state. In addition, a wild pig license tag is required for hunting wild pigs. These tags are sold to residents and nonresidents. Hunters must be 12 years of age or older to obtain these tags and hunt wild pigs.

Residents may purchase hunting licenses and wild pig tags, and nonresidents their hunting licenses, at DFG offices or at hunting license agents (most sporting goods stores). Nonresidents can purchase their wild pig tags only at DFG offices or through the mail (see back of this guide for addresses of the regional offices).

## LEGAL STATUS OF WILD PIGS AND GENERAL HUNTING LAWS

Wild pigs are not native to California. Because of their size, ferocity, breeding potential and the delectability of their meat, the wild pig has been listed as a game animal in California (Section 3950 of the *Fish and Game Code*). Domestic pigs are often distinguished from wild pigs by branding, ear marking, or other permanent identification, and are confined or under direct control.

The legal requirements for hunting wild pigs can be found in the annual booklet titled “*California Hunting Regulations, Mammals and Furbearers*.” This booklet is available at license agents and DFG offices, and online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.



## LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE

The following methods can be used for hunting wild pigs:

- (1) rifles and handguns using centerfire cartridges with soft point or expanding bullets;
- (2) muzzleloading rifles of at least .40 caliber;
- (3) shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells and firing single slugs; and
- (4) archery equipment and crossbows (see Section 354, *California Code of Regulations*, for details).

Spears, knives and other methods not specified in Sections 353 and 354 of the hunting regulations are not allowed for hunting wild pigs in California.



*Wild pig in oak woodland. DFG staff photo.*

## HOW TO HUNT WILD PIGS

### METHODS OF TAKE

#### *FIREARMS*

In general, wild pigs are more difficult to kill than deer or antelope but are easier to kill than elk. Legally, any centerfire firearm using a soft point bullet can be used. Wild pigs differ greatly in size, which complicates the choice of appropriate calibers. Many hunters take young wild pigs that only weigh about 50 to 70 pounds. Many of the smaller calibers that use lighter bullets are satisfactory for taking these smaller animals. At the other end of the scale are the large boars, which weigh over 200 pounds. These are far tougher and have thick shoulder plaques or shields. The larger calibers and heavily constructed bullets are more appropriate for wild pigs of this size.

Appropriate centerfire rifle cartridges to be used for lighter weight wild pigs (50 to 90 pounds) should have at least 800 foot-pounds of energy remaining at 100 yards. This assumes reasonably accurate bullet placement, using bullets that are at least .24 (6 mm) caliber and weighing a minimum of 100 grains. For heavier wild pigs (over 90

pounds), bullets should have at least 1200 foot-pounds of energy remaining at 100 yards. (This information is readily available from ammunition manufacturers' catalogs or reloading manuals.) Table 3 gives recommendations for various cartridges and bullet weights for hunting wild pigs with rifles, handguns, shotguns and muzzleloaders. While some .22 caliber centerfire cartridges will certainly kill wild pigs if correctly placed, their bullets are not constructed heavily enough for big game hunting and are therefore not recommended for any size of wild pig.

Hunters using handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloaders generally shoot at shorter ranges. For these methods of take, the same remaining energies that rifles use at 100 yards were used but determined at 50 yards to result in the recommendations for handguns, muzzleloaders and shotguns. For hunters using muzzleloading rifles, only one weight conical bullet is shown. Other conical bullet weights are available for most calibers. Reloading manuals will usually give the energies at 50 yards for these other weights.



Table 3. Recommendations for Using Various Calibers and Minimum Bullet Weights For Wild Pigs  
(Bullet weights over the minimum recommendation are not shown)

Caliber	Bullet Weight (grains)	Recommended for wild pigs of:	
		under 90 lbs	over 90 lbs
Rifles			
All 22 calibers	all	no	no
243 Winchester or 6mm Remington	100	yes	no
25-20 Winchester	86	no	no
25-35 Winchester	117	yes	no
250 Savage	100	yes	yes
257 Roberts + P	100	yes	yes
25-06 Remington	120	yes	yes
264 Winchester Magnum	140	yes	yes
270 Winchester	130	yes	yes
7x30 Waters	120	yes	yes
7mm-08	140	yes	yes
7x57 Mauser	145	yes	yes
280 Remington	140	yes	yes
284 Winchester	150	yes	yes
7mm Remington Magnum	150	yes	yes
30 M1 Carbine	110	no	no
7.62x39mm Russian	123	yes	no
30-30 Winchester	150	yes	yes
300 Savage	150	yes	yes
30-40 Krag	150	yes	yes
307 Winchester	180	yes	yes
308 Winchester	150	yes	yes
30-06 Springfield	150	yes	yes
300 Winchester Magnum	150	yes	yes
300 H&H Magnum	180	yes	yes
303 Savage	190	yes	no
303 British	180	yes	yes
32-20 Winchester	100	no	no
32 Winchester Special	170	yes	yes
8mm Mauser	170	yes	yes
8mm Remington Magnum	185	yes	yes
338 Winchester Magnum	200	yes	yes
348 Winchester	200	yes	yes
357 Magnum (rifle)	158	no	no
35 Remington	200	yes	yes
356 Winchester	200	yes	yes
358 Winchester	200	yes	yes
35 Whelan	200	yes	yes
350 Remington Magnum	200	yes	yes
375 Winchester	200	yes	yes
375 H&H Magnum	270	yes	yes
38-40 Winchester	180	no	no
38-55 Winchester	255	yes	no
416 Remington Magnum	300	yes	yes
44-40 Winchester	200	no	no
44 Remington Magnum (rifle)	240	yes	no
444 Marlin	240	yes	yes
45-70 Government	300	yes	yes
458 Winchester	500	yes	yes

Table 3. (Cont'd) Recommendations for Using Various Calibers and Minimum Bullet Weights for Wild Pigs  
(Bullet weights over the minimum recommendation are not shown)

### Handguns

Caliber	Bullet Weight (grains)	Recommended for wild pigs of:	
		under 90 lbs	over 90 lbs
.22 to .41 (incl. .357 magnum)	all	no	no
.44 Smith & Wesson	200	no	no
.44-40 Winchester	200	no	no
.44 Remington Magnum	240	yes	no
.45 ACP	185	no	no
.45 Colt	225	no	no
.454 Casull	260	yes	yes
.50 Action Express	325	yes	yes

### Muzzleloading Rifles (round ball/conical)

Caliber	Bullet Weight (grains)	Recommended for wild pigs of:	
		under 90 lbs	over 90 lbs
36 Caliber	65/128	no/no	no/no
45 Caliber	127/320	no/yes	no/no
50 Caliber	175/370	yes/yes	no/yes
54 Caliber	230/430	yes/yes	yes/yes
58 Caliber	279/555	yes/yes	yes/yes

### Shotguns

Gauge	Load (grains)	Recommended for wild pigs of:	
		under 90 lbs	over 90 lbs
.410	88	no	no
20 Gauge	328	yes	no
16 Gauge	350	yes	no
12 Gauge	438	yes	yes
10 Gauge	766	yes	yes



*This hunter had great success. DFG file photo.*

## Archery

Compound bows, recurve bows, or longbows are acceptable for hunting as long as they will cast a legal hunting arrow a horizontal distance of at least 130 yards (*California Code of Regulations*). As a general rule, an archer should use the heaviest pulling weight that can be used to shoot accurately throughout the day's hunt. It is a mistake to use a bow with a draw weight that is too strong for you because your accuracy will suffer. Depending on the hunting conditions, the length of the bow can be a factor. For example, when moving through heavy brush a shorter bow may be best.

Section 354 requires the use of a broadhead that will not pass through a  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch diameter hole. If you choose to use expanding heads, they must also meet the same requirements. Broadheads are available in many different diameters of cutting edge as well as many multi-blade designs. The modular replaceable blade broadheads are probably the most common type in use today. Expanding blade broadheads have recently been available. They may not be as durable, but will kill very quickly if well placed. For bows up to 60 pounds, use broadheads up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter with no more than four blades. Bows over 60 pounds may use broadheads of larger diameter with more blades and still get adequate penetration. In general, the larger the broadhead diameter, the harder it will be to tune your arrows for accuracy. It is important to select broadheads that are durable, aligned to fly accurately, and can be sharpened to a razor-sharp edge.

Arrows must have the correct length and spine to match the bow and the archer. The weight and material of

the arrow is a personal choice. Arrow shafts are made from wood, aluminum, fiberglass, or carbon fiber. In general, it pays to buy the best arrows you can afford.

Some general considerations concerning arrows are: 1) for a given bow pulling weight, lighter arrows have a faster speed and flatter trajectory (however, these faster arrows tend to be noisier which may increase the chances of alerting the animal); 2) small diameter arrow shafts allow for good penetration because there is less drag; 3) at a given distance, heavier arrows moving at a slower speed have roughly the same impact energy as the lighter and faster arrows. The most important consideration is to select arrows that shoot well with your bow.

Your choice of bow, arrow, or broadhead type, or whether you use sights or shoot instinctively is a matter of preference. Be sure to practice enough with your equipment so that your aim is accurate. Before a hunt, be sure to practice with your broadhead arrows because many will fly differently than your target arrows.

Hunters who use archery equipment should stalk their prey to within 30 yards or less. Obviously, the less noise you make, the better your chance of success. Silent clothing, a quiet quiver, camouflage, and staying downwind are important considerations.

Studies have shown that razor-sharp broadheads seem to cause very little discomfort or pain to an animal that is hit and it often continues feeding until it collapses unless the animal spots the hunter. As with rifle hunting, the appropriate archery target on any animal is the vital organ area which contains the heart, lungs, liver, and major blood vessels. Do not take frontal shots at wild pigs. Side shots are not recommended for large wild pigs. Rear quartering shots into the chest cavity are recommended for large-sized animals because this allows the arrow to slip behind the shoulder plaque. Shooting an arrow through the relatively thick skin and shoulder plaque of large wild pigs dulls the broadhead and may inhibit further penetration.

The Department highly recommends that any hunter planning to use archery for hunting take the course provided by the International Bowhunter Education Program. Currently the program is co-sponsored by the Department. The certificate of completion is valid in other states where the course is required.

# REPORTED WILD PIG HARVEST BY COUNTY

## REPORTED FROM WILD PIG LICENSE TAGS

County	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
Humboldt	111	73	32	33	26	43	30	20
Modoc	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Shasta	64	53	22	33	22	53	55	84
Siskiyou	10	9	8	12	12	21	17	8
Tehama	308	304	284	265	268	380	493	398
Trinity	27	55	17	14	21	23	8	16
<b>Northern Totals</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>526</b>
Amador	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Butte	3	2	2	0	1	0	1	2
Calaveras	1	0	3	2	3	6	2	1
Colusa	66	63	34	76	73	151	117	64
El Dorado	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glenn	12	24	21	26	23	51	67	60
Nevada	7	11	5	7	4	17	9	7
Placer	3	1	0	2	6	2	3	0
Sacramento	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
San Joaquin	6	6	10	21	13	25	60	29
Solano	23	21	16	36	26	30	49	40
Sutter	59	59	24	17	31	64	59	45
Yolo	0	0	1	4	3	4	19	11
Yuba	0	7	3	1	1	4	1	0
<b>Central Sierra Totals</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>259</b>
Alameda	25	32	39	48	48	68	97	45
Contra Costa	14	8	5	8	6	9	21	15
Lake	98	83	56	43	33	42	47	28
Mendocino	634	652	371	339	291	299	286	164
Monterey	778	859	887	1011	935	1194	2063	1620
Napa	122	138	83	80	75	66	65	24
San Benito	226	263	289	394	371	359	717	461
San Luis Obispo	252	422	467	600	529	522	544	541
San Mateo	0	1	1	1	0	1	6	4
Santa Clara	380	604	816	751	541	609	863	440
Santa Cruz	24	59	66	61	48	53	39	48
Sonoma	849	851	394	458	377	379	402	306
<b>Central Coast Totals</b>	<b>3402</b>	<b>3972</b>	<b>3474</b>	<b>3794</b>	<b>3254</b>	<b>3601</b>	<b>5150</b>	<b>3696</b>

County (cont.)	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
Fresno	45	102	100	160	161	270	241	208
Kern	33	15	20	44	89	143	319	487
Kings	13	8	6	6	3	5	3	27
Madera	9	14	14	33	30	30	21	36
Mariposa	18	30	40	53	61	72	51	54
Merced	21	43	36	41	33	50	138	101
Stanislaus	55	61	75	154	143	183	303	103
Tulare	48	68	58	71	104	90	97	64
Tuolumne	3	1	2	2	0	0	6	1
<b>Southern Sierra Totals</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>1081</b>
Los Angeles	21	42	43	54	28	12	89	46
San Diego	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	94	162	226	254	189	185	337	247
Ventura	2	4	6	7	1	5	7	12
<b>Southern Totals</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>305</b>
Riverside	8	9	30	9	7	7	19	17
San Bernardino	2	2	2	1	1	3	5	2
Unknown	0	1	2	6	5	2	43	20
<b>Inland Desert Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>4475</b>	<b>5225</b>	<b>4617</b>	<b>5239</b>	<b>4643</b>	<b>5533</b>	<b>7823</b>	<b>5906</b>

The recent information from the returned wild pig license tags shows some interesting trends that may indicate changes in wild pig distribution and abundance. The reported wild pig take from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 is higher than any previous year. The 5,494 wild pigs taken during that time is 18% higher than the number (4,633) reported during the previous year.

While only a portion (about 15%) of the wild pigs reported in the DFG's Game Take Survey each year are reported, the trend from year to year seems to suggest that more pigs are occurring in the northern and the Sierra Nevada areas. The percentage increase is most dramatic for the Sierra Nevada, especially in Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Fresno and Kern counties. In the north, the most significant increases occur in Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou counties. The increased reported take in these areas of the state corresponds to a record low (65% of the total) reported take for the central coastal area.

Table 4 Average Wild Pig Harvest by County, Region, and State and Approximate Percentage on Public vs. Private Land

Region/County	Private Land Harvest 1999/2000	Public Land Harvest 1999/2000	Eight-Year Average Harvest (1992-2000)
<b>Northern California – North Coast</b>			
Humboldt	20	0	46
Modoc	0	0	1
Shasta	78	6	48
Siskiyou	6	2	12
Tehama	375	15	338
Trinity	12	4	23
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>422</i>
<b>Sacramento Valley – Central Sierra</b>			
Amador	0	0	0
Butte	2	0	1
Calaveras	1	0	2
Colusa	57	7	81
El Dorado	0	0	0
Glenn	53	0	36
Nevada	7	7	8
Placer	0	0	2
Sacramento	0	0	0
San Joaquin	20	6	21
Solano	20	20	31
Sutter	45	0	45
Yolo	11	0	5
Yuba	0	0	2
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>234</i>
<b>Central Coast</b>			
Alameda	37	8	50
Contra Costa	15	0	11
Lake	21	7	54
Mendocino	158	2	380
Monterey	1,515	94	1168
Napa	23	0	82
San Benito	427	27	385
San Luis Obispo	462	74	485
San Mateo	4	0	2
Santa Clara	427	5	626
Santa Cruz	48	0	50
Sonoma	277	27	502
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>3,414</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>3795</i>
<b>San Joaquin Valley – Southern Sierra</b>			
Fresno	169	36	161
Kern	476	11	144
Kings	26	1	9
Madera	36	0	23
Mariposa	52	2	47
Merced	80	20	58
Stanislaus	103	0	135
Tulare	61	3	75
Tuolumne	1	0	2
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>1,004</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>654</i>
<b>Eastern Sierra – Inland Deserts</b>			
Riverside	13	4	12
San Bernardino	1	1	2
Unknown	13	3	10
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>24</i>
<b>South Coast</b>			
Los Angeles	45	0	42
Santa Barbara	162	83	212
Ventura	11	0	6
<i>Region Total</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>260</i>
<b>State Total</b>			<b>5389</b>



## METHODS FOR LOCATING WILD PIGS

Locating wild pigs is the first step to successfully hunting wild pigs, and knowledge of their behavior and sign is useful. As a general rule, the hunt begins with a search for fresh sign. Wild pig sign can take the form of trails, tracks, droppings, rootings, wallows, tree rubs and beds.

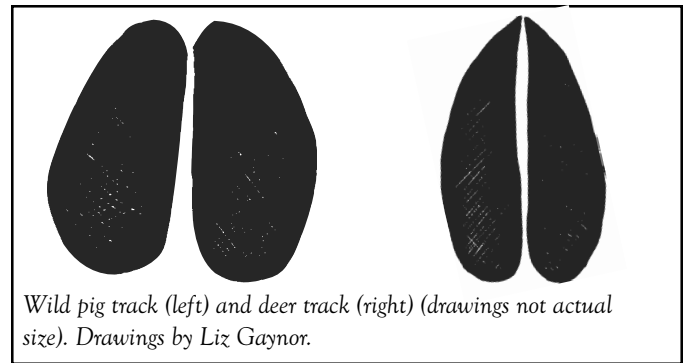
Trails are often regularly used and may be well defined. If a trail leads to a low tunnel in dense brush, chances are that it was made by wild pigs. Trails going straight up a steep hill indicate the presence of wild pigs. Other animals tend to make trails that angle up hills.

Wild pigs normally spend the majority of the day in beds. This practice is particularly evident where there is heavy hunting pressure. Beds can be rooted-out areas about two to eight inches deep, sometimes lined with grasses, and are commonly in the heart of a dense shrub patch. Wild pigs are somewhat nomadic and may have several beds. Once flushed from these beds, individuals may not return to them for some weeks.

Wild pig tracks are nearly circular in shape, almost as wide as they are long. In soft soil, dewclaw impressions can often be seen. Wild pig tracks are easy to distinguish from deer tracks, which are pointed in front. However, pig tracks are sometimes difficult to distinguish from goat, sheep and young calf tracks.

The size and shape of droppings (scat) varies depending on the age of the animal and the diet. Wild pig scat is normally elongated, similar to a dog's scat, or sometimes roundish clumps. The composition of the scat can provide information on where they are feeding.

Rooted areas are the result of wild pigs foraging for roots, bulbs, or invertebrates. Wild pigs root up the soil with their noses to obtain the underground food items. These rooted areas may be extensive, depending on the number of wild pigs and the food desired.



Wild pig track (left) and deer track (right) (drawings not actual size). Drawings by Liz Gaynor.

Wallows are wet, muddy areas that wild pigs use for cooling and for protecting against insects during the dry summer season.

They are usually muddy depressions made around springs or ponds, or other areas where water has accumulated. If the water is muddy or fresh mud is splattered around, it probably indicates that wild pigs are active in the area.

Wild pigs scratch themselves by rubbing on trees. Tree rubs often are found near trails that wild pigs use regularly. Tree rubs can be informative. They can tell you the wild pig's approximate size by the height of the rub line, and the wild pig's color by hair left on the bark of the tree. These clues can make the search for wild pigs more interesting.



Wild pig scat. DFG staff photo.

Wild pig wallows. Photo by Karen R. Fothergill.





*Wild pig rooting area. DFG staff photo.*

Concentrate hunting efforts where the signs are freshest. As a general rule, hunted wild pigs tend to be more active than unhunted wild pigs. Sign will usually be freshest from October through May in the early morning and evening or at night. The wild pigs tend to be almost exclusively nocturnal during summer. They seem to be most active on moonlit nights.

## HUNTING TECHNIQUES FOR WILD PIGS

Usually wild pigs will attempt to run away if they smell, hear, or see a hunter. Wild pigs have an excellent sense of smell, good hearing, and poor eyesight. Therefore, hunters should be most concerned about being downwind and quiet. They can be less concerned about being seen. If you are downwind and very quiet, you can often get very close to feeding or sleeping wild pigs. If the wind is faint, a puff powder bottle is very useful for detecting the direction of air currents.

When injured or cornered, wild pigs can be dangerous. A good indicator of aggressive behavior is a clacking sound, made when the wild pig snaps his jaws open and shut. If a wild pig is running toward you, it is not necessarily attacking. Because they have poor eyesight, wild pigs running toward a person usually do not recognize the human form. Making a quick movement or sound will usually cause the wild pig turn in a different direction.

### Stand Hunting (Posting)

This type of hunting is useful when you know that wild pigs are using an area and have located their food or water source. Select a spot with a clear view and, if possible, some cover and a good rest for shooting. Make

sure you wait downwind from where the wild pigs are expected to appear.

Another form of stand hunting is to wait along possible travel routes, or escape routes outside an area being hunted intensively by other hunters. You should plan to be on site at least a half-hour before sunrise. This is mainly an early morning technique and, if unproductive, the hunter can then try one or more of the other methods.



*Wild pigs moving through dry grass. DFG staff photo.*

### Spotting and Stalking

In fairly open country, spotting wild pigs from a distance and then stalking them can be an effective method. Start out by trying to situate yourself where you have a commanding view and the wind is coming toward you. If pigs are seen at a distance, walk slowly and quietly toward them, keeping the wind at your face and using available cover. Since wild pigs have poor eyesight, you may be able to get fairly close without being detected. This technique is by far the most popular with bowhunters. Stalking to within 15 yards for that perfect shot is not an impossible task.

### Still Hunting

In thicker habitat, still hunting is commonly used. After locating an area with fresh wild pig sign, plan a route that moves into the wind and has quiet footing. Move slowly and stop often to search and listen for wild pigs. For both spotting and stalking, and for still hunting, quiet clothes are essential. Glassing often with binoculars can increase your chance of success.



## Group Hunting

If you are hunting with a group, a hunting drive is an option to be considered. Conduct the drive by walking a short distance apart with the hope of flushing wild pigs out of cover. With this technique, it is especially important to be aware of the direction your muzzle is pointing as you walk along. Another approach, depending on the terrain, is to strategically place hunters at one end of a brushy area, along trails, or on either side of a canyon. For safety reasons and to insure the best shot, position the stationary hunters at locations where they have a good open view. The rest of the group should work noisily through the area from the other end, hopefully driving the wild pigs before them and flushing them out into the open. When using archery equipment, the same technique may work if the group moves quietly. With this technique, the wild pigs will probably be moving and a relatively quick shot will be called for. Because there are a number of hunters, and they are spread out, there needs to be extra concern that shots are taken only when sure of both the target and background.

## Hunting with Dogs

For hunters who are fairly fit, hunting with dogs can be quite successful. Good pig dogs will get on a fresh scent and usually chase a wild pig until it is brought to bay or cornered. The dog's barking will lead the hunter to the wild pig. This technique often results in a fairly active chase, over long distances in rough country.

Only dogs skilled in wild pig hunting should be used. A large wild pig brought to bay may become very aggressive. Unskilled dogs could be seriously injured.

## Tracking

If fresh sign is encountered, skilled hunters may try to immediately track the wild pig. Tracking conditions are most favorable after a recent rain, as the soft ground allows good tracks to be made and washes out old tracks that could be confusing.

Remember that wild pigs have poor eyesight, good hearing, and an excellent sense of smell. Wild pigs can be active at any time of the day, but they are mostly active during the early morning and late evening, when traveling to and from their beds. Another option is to head for the nearest brush cover. If wild pigs are not there, circle the

area of heavy activity. Although pigs may travel several miles to forage, they often bed down near their feeding area.



Wild pig track. Photo by DFG staff.

## LOCATING SHOT ANIMALS

Once you have shot an animal, it is *your responsibility to recover that animal*. Depending on shot placement, this may require many hours of hard work over rough terrain. It may even require an effort the following day. If this is not appealing to you, hunting wild pigs is probably not your sport.

While we all try to make clean kills, this does not always happen. After taking a shot at any animal, there are a few things that should be done to determine if you hit the animal. If the wild pig is no longer visible, first mark in your mind where the animal was standing when you shot. Next, go to that spot, whether or not you think you hit the animal. Mark the spot so that you are able to return to it if necessary. Look around the immediate vicinity for any signs of wounding. Frothy blood indicates a lung wound; bright blood a hit in muscle; and digested food, with or without blood, a stomach wound.

Unless it is a stomach wound, most hunters using firearms prefer to begin tracking the animal immediately. Because animals wounded in the stomach can travel long distances, often it is better to wait in the hopes that the wounded animal will lie down close by, rather than be pursued for a long distance. Because arrow wounds are different from bullet wounds, the general rule is to wait for awhile before tracking an animal which has a body hit. If the hit is in the abdomen, delay even longer. This wait is especially important when bowhunting wild pigs because when wounded they have the ability to move very quickly and aggressively. On hot days, the length of this waiting period needs to be balanced with the need to process the carcass as soon as possible to avoid spoilage.

The amount of blood indicates how difficult the tracking task will be. Much of your success will depend on your experience, but some general hints are:

- (1) do not only look at the ground, but look on blades of grass or leaves of low growing bushes;
- (2) do not just look for sign but also look ahead to see if you can spot the wounded animal, either moving or lying on the ground;
- (3) if you lose the trail, circle and search for blood or other signs of recent passage such as fresh tracks or overturned rocks;
- (4) when you come to any open areas, stop and use your binoculars to search for a downed animal in the distance; and
- (5) When you locate the downed animal and it is obvious that it is not dead, a second shot is often advisable to end the animal's suffering and prevent it from running again and possibly getting away.

## DISPATCHING WOUNDED ANIMALS

As with any big game, approach any downed or obviously wounded animal with care. Sometimes the animal is only stunned, can recover, and then aggressively attack the approaching hunter. A good rule is to be prepared for a second shot until it is clear that the animal is dead. It is especially important to be wary about wild pigs because not only are they hard to kill, but their strength and sharp tusks enable them to inflict serious injury, even when wounded.



Wild pig trails on Santa Cruz Island. DFG staff photo.

## WHERE TO HUNT WILD PIGS

Wild pigs can be hunted on private land with the permission of the owner, and on public land such as national forests, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and some state wildlife areas. As a general rule, wild pigs are much harder to find on public land, though access is usually free. Data from about eight years of returned wild pig license tags indicate that almost all (about 93 percent) of the wild pigs killed in California are taken on private land.

### HUNTING AREA OPTIONS

#### Private Land

Methods for gaining access to private lands for hunting wild pigs include: (1) asking individual landholders for permission to hunt on their land, (2) contacting a landholder currently managing a hunting business, or (3) hiring a guide who has made prior arrangements to organize hunting on private land. Options (2) and (3) can

usually be found through advertisements in hunting journals or local sporting goods stores.

Hunter should be aware that if a landholder is asked for permission to hunt on his or her property and gives that permission, Section 846 of the *Civil Code* relieves that landholder from liability as long as the landholder does not charge a fee. Permission must be in writing.

In addition, hunters can obtain the Department's "*Licensed Guides List*," which includes the name and address of each licensed hunting and/or fishing guide, the area in California covered by their guide service, and the type of fishing and/or hunting for which they provide guide services.

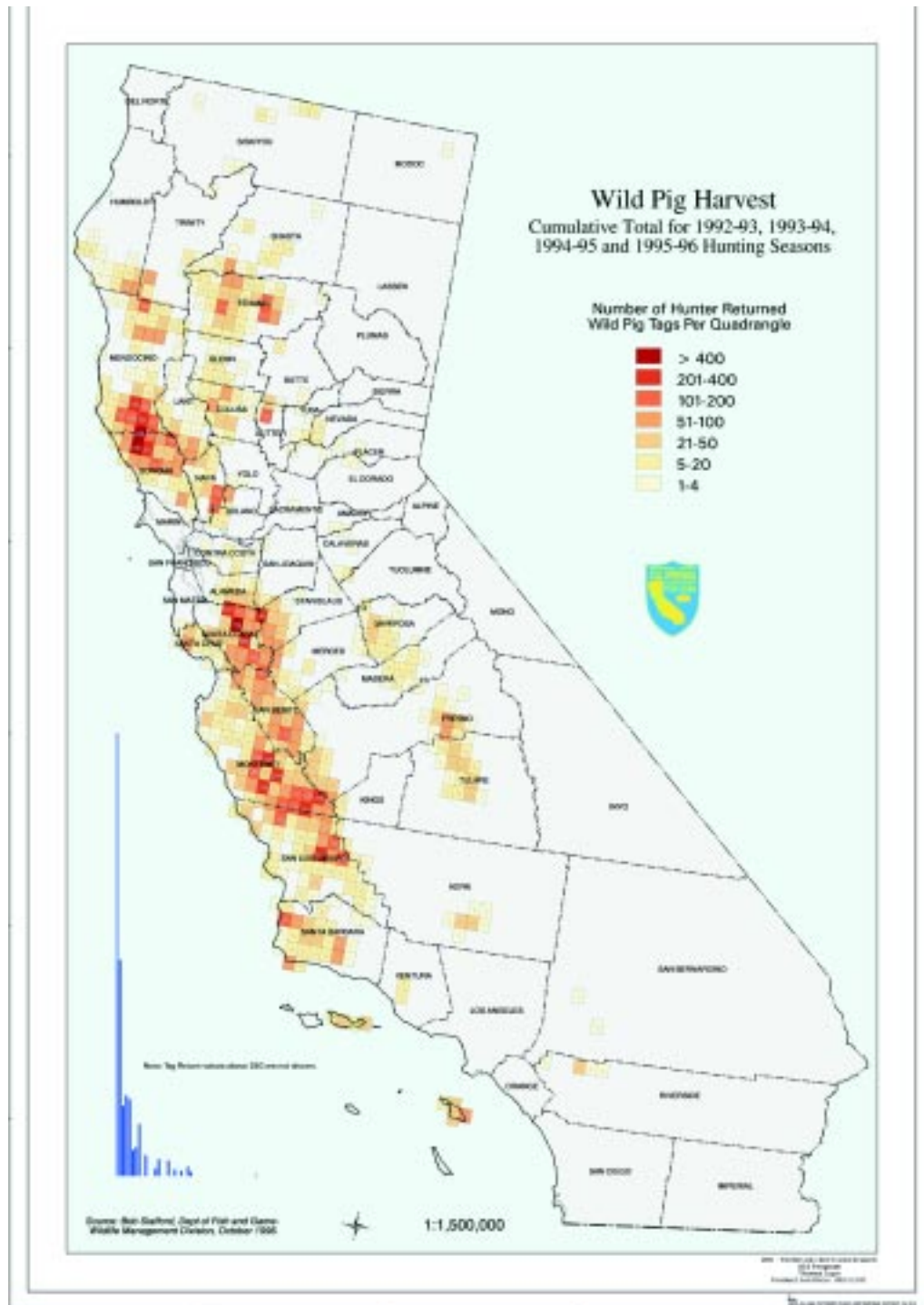
There are many cooperative hunting clubs which have access to large ranches throughout the state. Some clubs offer wild pig hunting to their members. These clubs advertise in many of the hunting journals or in local sporting goods stores.

## WILD PIG RANGE IN CALIFORNIA

Wild pigs are found in at least 56 counties in California, with the heaviest concentrations found west of the Central Valley from Mendocino to San Luis Obispo counties (see Figure 1). This information is from 3 years' worth of wild pig license tag returns. These returns are a good indicator of the wild pigs' distribution and density

in California public land and are a guide for private land. The harvest information depicted in Table 4 shows that about 75 percent of the wild pigs are taken in the central coast region, mostly in Mendocino, Monterey, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo and Sonoma counties. The table also shows that over 70 percent of the central coast is occupied by wild pigs, while less than 25 percent of the state is in the wild pig range.

Figure 1 Range of Wild Pigs in California





## Public Land

Public land is land managed by federal, state or local government agencies. Some public lands have restrictions on the season of use, methods of take, hunting zones, game species, and number of hunters. They may also charge for entry.

Wild pig hunting on public land is poor to very poor and the presence of wild pigs is often infrequent. However, wild pigs can rapidly populate an area, and areas without pigs one season may be populated during a later season. The map below shows the general location of areas described in detail on following pages.



# CARE OF GAME

## FIELD DRESSING

Wild pigs should be gutted, skinned, and cooled as soon as possible after being killed because they can spoil rapidly, especially if the weather is hot. Trim out scars or any wound tissue. Small wild pigs can be skinned in the same way a deer is skinned. Large wild pigs can be skinned using the strip method. Hang the carcass with the head pointing up (see photo) and make a cut through the skin around the neck. With a sharp carpet knife, make cuts perpendicular to the neck cut down the whole body about four inches apart. Peel each resulting strip off the carcass by pulling firmly.

## CARE OF MEAT

After field dressing the wild pig, hang the meat in a shady place to allow it to dry and cool. In general, wild pigs tend to spoil faster than deer.

After the meat is cool, it can be butchered or taken to a meat locker to be hung and aged the same as with deer or livestock. Meat should be properly wrapped and frozen. As with other big game, the cleaner the meat is kept, and the quicker it is cooled, the better it will taste. Young pigs up to about nine months of age tend to be the best tasting. They can be identified by their smaller size and temporary needle-like lower canine tusks. For large wild pigs over 200 pounds, consider grinding most of the meat into sausage.



*Large wild pigs can be skinned using the strip method. DFG photo.*

## DISEASE CONSIDERATIONS

Wild pigs can carry parasites and diseases — in particular, trichinosis and brucellosis — that are potentially transmittable to humans, livestock, pets, and wildlife. The risk of becoming infected is very small, and can be further minimized by proper handling, care and cooking of the wild pig carcass.

When handling a wild pig carcass, it is recommended that you take the following precautions:

- wear rubber gloves when dressing wild pigs
- avoid puncturing the urinary bladder and gastrointestinal tract
- freeze the meat until hard
- completely cook the meat (170 degrees F.)
- bury, burn or dispose of in the garbage the unusable portions of the carcass so that it can not be dug up and eaten by wildlife or pets.

*Pied wild pig in brushy grassland. Photo by DFG staff.*

# THE FINAL REWARD: WILD PIG RECIPES



*This tasty recipe for zuni boar with hominy stew was contributed by Chef Kirk Williams. Photo by Robert Waldron.*

## ZUNI BOAR AND HOMINY STEW

3 ½ lbs.	Boar, Elk, Bear or Lamb Stew Meat
¼ cup	Corn Oil
1 cup	Onion, large diced
2 tbsp.	Garlic, minced
1 ea.	Jalapeno Chile, minced
1 lb.	Fresh Poblano Chiles, large diced
¼ cup	Masa Harina (tortilla flour)
1 ½ qts.	Chicken Broth
1 lbs.	Tomatillos, husked, large diced
6 ea.	Juniper Berries
2 ea.	Bay Leaves
2 cans	Hominy, drained
2 tbsp.	Salt
2 tsp.	Pepper, ground

Heat a large pot over high heat until very hot. Add the oil and meat. Sear on all sides until well browned. Remove the meat and add the onion, garlic, jalapeno and poblano chilies. Sauté for 1 minute. Lower the heat and add the tortilla flour. Stir in and cook for several minutes. While stirring, add the broth and bring to a simmer. Add the seared meat and tomatillos. Wrap the juniper berries and bay leaf in cheesecloth or a coffee filter and tie with a string. Add to the stew. Cover with a lid and allow simmering gently until the meat is fork tender, approximately 1½ hours. Remove the bay leaf and juniper sachet. Stir in the hominy and season with salt and pepper. Serve over jalapeno rice or grits. Serves 8.

## ROCK SALT PORK ROAST

Contrary to the name, this roast does not taste briney! The salt brings the heat into the meat and does not oversalt the roast. The roast is left with a crispy coating on the outside.

Small (2 or 3 pounds) wild pig roast  
3 strips of thin-sliced bacon, cut into pieces  
Black pepper  
Garlic clove  
3 to 4 pounds of rock salt

### *Late additions*

Apple slices  
Parsley  
Marinated pears  
¼ cup brandy (optional)

Preheat oven to 500 degrees. Make three slits into the roast. Put the garlic clove into the middle slit, and surround it with pieces of bacon. Pack the rest of the bacon into the other two slits. Sprinkle the roast with pepper. Spread about one inch of rock salt in the bottom of a roasting pan and put the roast on top. Pile rock salt around the roast, building it up and using a little hot water as needed to make the salt stay in place. Continue piling the rock salt onto the roast until it is completely covered. Put the roast into the oven.

Reduce the oven to 450 degrees. Bake for 14 minutes per pound of roast. Remove the roast from the oven at the end of the calculated roasting time. The rock salt will be very hard, and will have to be cracked off with a hammer and chisel. Once cracked, the rock salt pieces should lift off the meat easily. Remove the roast from the pan and brush off excess salt.

Place the meat on a serving dish. Stick sliced apples, pears and parsley to the sides of the roast with toothpicks. If desired, heat brandy in a saucepan, then pour it over the roast. Under dim light, ignite the brandy. Slice the roast.



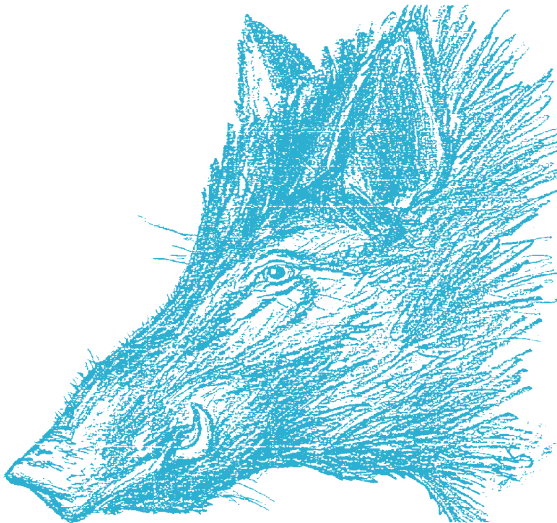
## WILD BOAR AND KRAUT CASSEROLE

6 boar chops,  $\frac{3}{4}$ - to 1-inch thick  
2 tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 2-lb. jar of sauerkraut, rinsed and drained  
1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. smoked Polish sausage links (about 6)  
4 cloves minced garlic  
14 juniper berries  
1 tsp. pepper  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt  
1 bay leaf  
 $2\frac{1}{3}$  cups dark beer  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups shredded peeled potatoes  
1 medium red cooking apple, cored and cut into 1-inch chunks  
1 medium yellow cooking apple, cored and cut into 1-inch chunks  
1 medium green cooking apple, cored and cut into 1-inch chunks

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In 6-quart oven-safe Dutch oven or stockpot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chops and brown on both sides. Remove chops and set aside.

Into the same pan, put in half the sauerkraut. Top with chops and sausages. In medium mixing bowl, combine remaining sauerkraut, garlic, juniper berries, salt, pepper, and bay leaf. Spoon mixture over chops and sausage. Pour beer over mixture. Cover and bake for one hour.

Stir in potatoes and apples. Cover and bake for 30 to 45 more minutes, or until apples are tender. Serves 6.



## WILD BOAR ROAST

Wild boar roast, with bone  
4-5 small to medium onions, chopped  
half-pint sour cream  
beef broth  
margarine  
sage  
thyme  
marjoram  
rosemary  
salt  
pepper  
cognac (optional)

Brown roast in margarine in heavy pot. Add onions, salt, and pepper. Season roast with a small amount of sage, and the use rest of the seasonings to taste. Add 3 to 4 tbsp. of beef broth. Place covered pot in pre-heated 300 degree oven. Roast for one-and-a-half to two hours, or until roast is done. (Meat is done when it starts to pull away from the bone.) Remove meat and strain onions from liquid. Return pan to stovetop. Over high heat, add sour cream and a small amount of flour to the remaining liquid to thicken it slightly. Just before serving, add a shot of cognac to sauce, if desired.

## CROCKPOT WILD PORK

3-4 pound wild pig loin roast  
2 large onions, sliced  
1 tsp. garlic, minced  
salt and pepper to taste  
1 quart sauerkraut, drained  
1 tbsp. caraway seeds  
1 can beef broth  
6 potatoes, boiled and mashed

Place pork into 6-quart crockpot with all other ingredients except sauerkraut, potatoes or caraway seeds. Cook on low for 6 hours. Add sauerkraut and caraway seeds and cook for one or two more hours or until done. Serve over mashed potatoes.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA — NORTH COAST

A few of the state's wildlife areas and state forests provide limited wild pig hunting. Many of the areas either require entry permits or have season and method of take

restrictions. Strategies to increase your chance of success include spending time to learn the area and look for sign, and to get as far from access roads as possible.

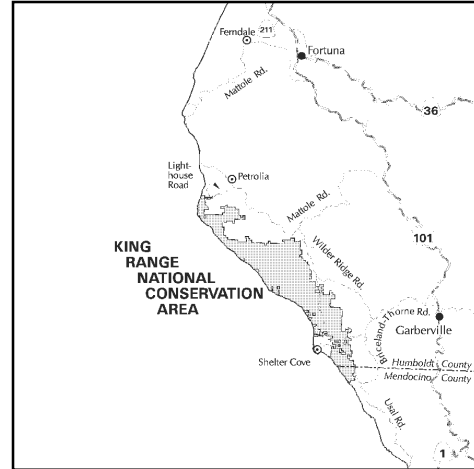
### *KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (HUMBOLDT AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES) — BLM*

**For information:** Call (707) 825-2300.

**Location and Access:** From Eureka, go south 15 miles on Highway 101 to Highway 211, go southwest 5 miles on Highway 211 to Ferndale, continue southwest on Mattole Road to Petrolia, continue south about 1 mile to Lighthouse Road, then take Lighthouse Road into the northern part of the conservation area.

**Size:** 52,000 acres.

Wild pigs can be found in the north end of the area but hunting is poor to very poor. Wild pigs usually remain in better habitat on surrounding private land. Camping is available at the Mattole Campground at the northern tip of the conservation area.



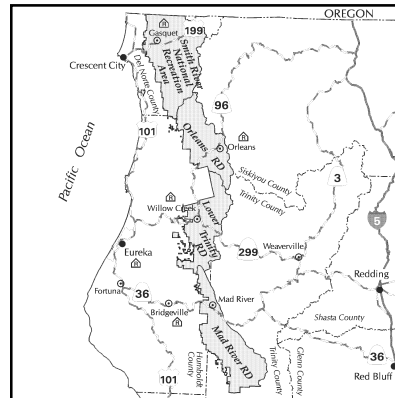
### *MAD RIVER RANGER DISTRICT (HUMBOLDT AND TRINITY COUNTIES) SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST — U.S. FOREST SERVICE*

**For information:** Call the ranger district office at (707) 574-6233.

**Location and Access:** From Eureka go south 20 miles on Highway 101, go east about 45 miles on Highway 36 to the District Ranger station.

**Size:** 230,800 acres.

Wild pig hunting is poor and few have been taken.



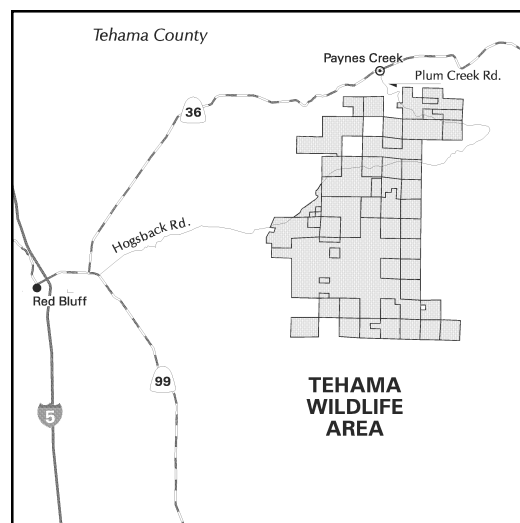
### *TEHAMA WILDLIFE AREA (TEHEMA COUNTY) — DFG*

**For information:** Call the wildlife area at (530) 597-2201 or the Region 1 office at (530) 225-2300.

**Location and Access:** From Red Bluff go northeast on Highway 36 for about 23 miles to the town of Paynes Creek, then go south about 3 miles on Plum Creek Road. **Size:** 46,900 acres.

Limited entry wild pig hunts are usually available in spring. Applications are sent to the Region 1 office in Redding and a limited number of hunters are selected for the April/May weekend hunts. Call the Redding office for details about hunt dates and application procedures. This wildlife area is a Type C area; no fee is required. Permits are required for wild pig hunting. No dogs are allowed for wild pig hunting. Camping and trailers are allowed.

Recent success rates have been fairly low on this area, probably as a result of the recent drought.





## SACRAMENTO VALLEY — CENTRAL SIERRA

### *PUTAH CREEK WILDLIFE AREA (SOLANO COUNTY)—DFG*

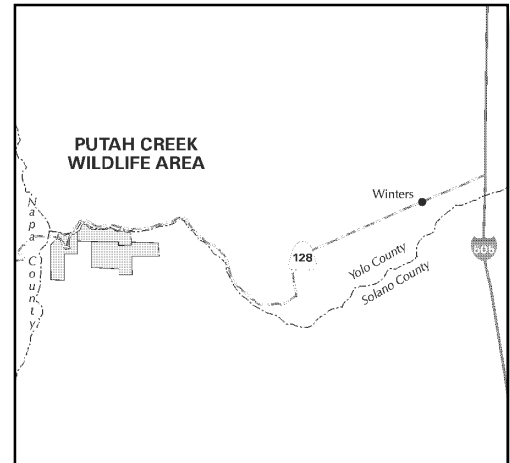
**For information:** Call (916) 358-2900.

**Location and Access:** Near Vacaville (at the junction of Interstate 80), go north 11 miles on Interstate 505 to Winters, go west about 10 miles on Highway 128. The area is on the south side of Putah Creek about 800 feet downstream from Monticello Dam.

**Size:** 670 acres.

This wildlife area is open daily for hunting wild pigs from the opening of deer season through January 31. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Camping and trailers are not allowed.

Wild pig hunting is poor and numbers are very low.



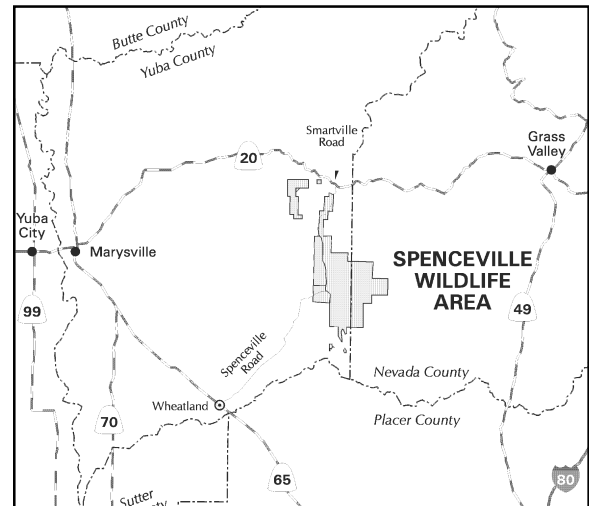
### *SPENCEVILLE WILDLIFE AREA (NEVADA AND YUBA COUNTIES) — DFG*

**For information:** Call the Oroville WA at (530) 538-2236 or the Region 2 office at (916) 358-2877.

**Location and Access:** Located about 15 miles east of Marysville. From Marysville proceed about 18 miles east on Highway 20 to Smartsville Road. Proceed south on Smartsville Road about four miles to the main entrance.

**Size:** 11,390 acres.

This wildlife area is open daily for hunting wild pigs from September 1 through January 31. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are allowed for hunting only. Camping and trailers are allowed in designated campsites. While wild pigs have been taken from the area, they are somewhat scarce.



## CENTRAL COAST

### *BIG SANDY WILDLIFE AREA (MONTEREY AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES) — DFG*

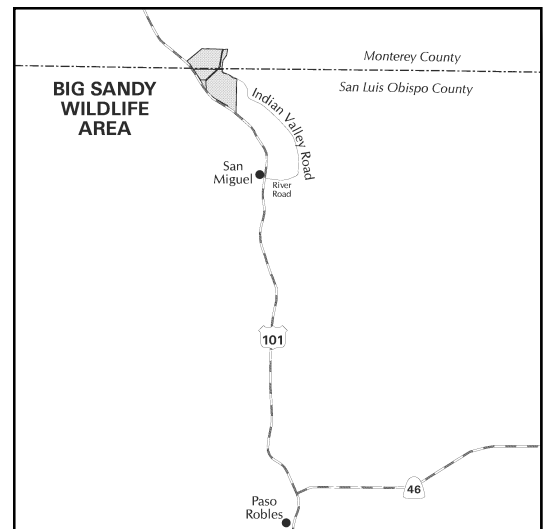
**For information:** Call the Monterey office at (831) 649-2870.

**Location and Access:** Located about 9 miles north of Paso Robles. From Highway 101, take the San Miguel exit and go east about 1 mile on River Road and cross the Salinas River, then go north 3 miles on Indian Valley road to the entrance of the parking lot.

**Size:** 850 acres.

This wildlife area is open daily for hunting wild pigs from July 1 through January 31. Only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed for hunting. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are allowed for hunting only. Camping and trailers are not permitted.

Wild pigs are probably only transient visitors to this wildlife area and are very scarce.



### **BOGGS MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST (LAKE COUNTY) — CDF**

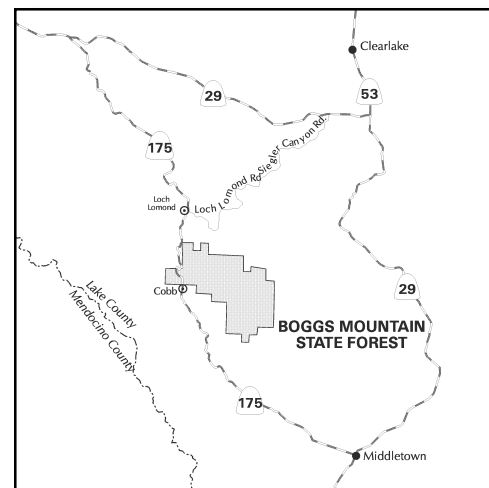
**For information:** Call state forest office at (707) 928-4378.

**Location and Access:** From Highway 29 at Middletown, go north about 9 miles on Highway 175 to the entrance on the east side of the highway.

**Size:** 3,500 acres.

This forest is open daily all year. It is recommended that you stop at the Headquarters and get local conditions and a map. A map is also available from: Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, P.O. Box 839, Cobb, CA 95426. Primitive camping is available but a *Special Use Permit* is required.

Wild pigs are probably only rare transient visitors to this state forest.



### **CACHE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA (COLUSA AND LAKE COUNTIES) — DFG**

**For information:** Call the Region 3 office at (707) 944-5500 or the BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

**Location and Access:** Located about 29 miles west of Williams. From Williams at I-5, go west about 33 miles on Highway 20 to the parking lot on the south side of the highway.

**Size:** 3,860 acres.

This wildlife area is managed cooperatively with BLM lands along Cache Creek and is open daily for hunting all year. It is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are not allowed for wild pig hunting. Primitive camping is allowed. Trailers are not allowed.

**Special Closures:** Except for the Destanella Flat and Harley Gulch management units, no person shall enter that portion east of the North Fork and south of the Main Fork of Cache Creek during the elk calving period, April 1 through June 30, except with prior written permission of the Regional Manager.

Though this area provides fairly good wild pig habitat, wild pigs have been very rare to absent on this area in the last few years.

### **CACHE CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA (LAKE COUNTY) — BLM**

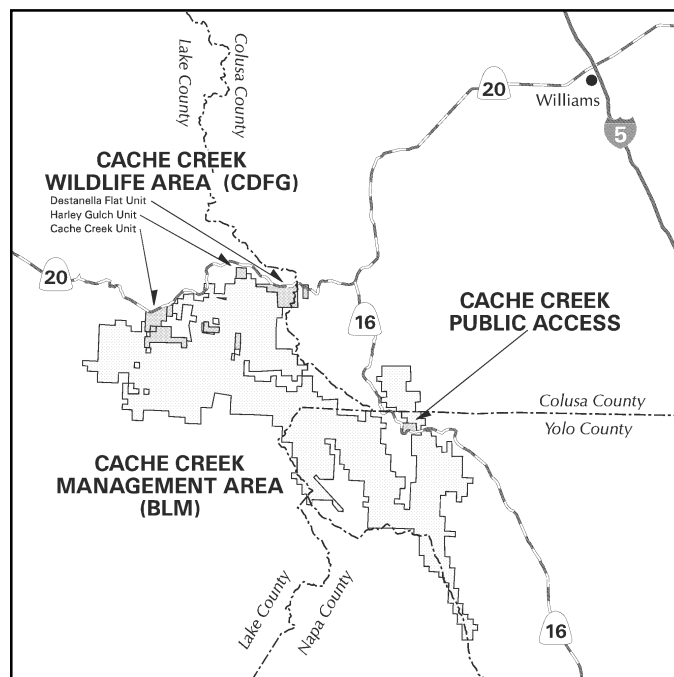
**For information:** Call BLM-Ukiah (707) 468-4000.

**Location and Access:** About 29 miles west of Williams, adjacent to the south side of Highway 20. Access is by foot only.

**Size:** 50,000 acres.

This wildlife area is managed cooperatively with the Cache Creek Wildlife Area along Cache Creek and is open daily for hunting all year. Limited wild pig hunting is available in the Wilson Valley and Baton Flat areas. Use of dogs is only allowed from the beginning of the general deer season until the first Saturday in April. Overnight camping is allowed in certain areas.

Though this area provides fairly good wild pig habitat, wild pigs have been very rare to absent on this area in the last few years.



***Camp Roberts (Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties) – U.S. Department of Defense***

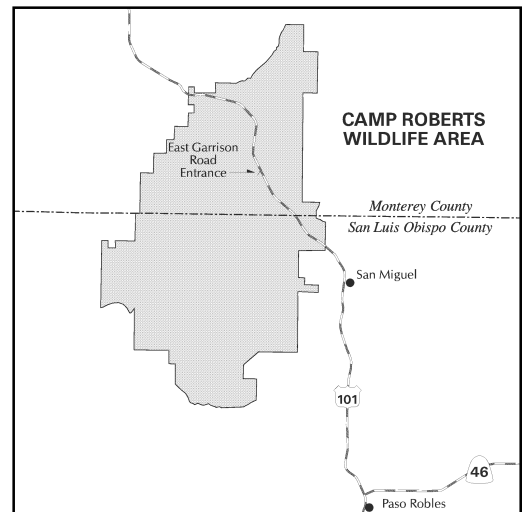
**For information:** Call (805) 238-8167.

**Location and Access:** The East Garrison entrance is just off Highway 101, about 13 miles north of Paso Robles.

**Size:** About 35,000 acres available for hunting.

The base is usually open for wild pig hunting from late August to early September (opening day is by reservation only), various weekends in October and November, and for additional days in December.

One of the advantages of hunting this area is that more than one species can be sought at one time. In the last few years, hunter success for wild pigs has increased.



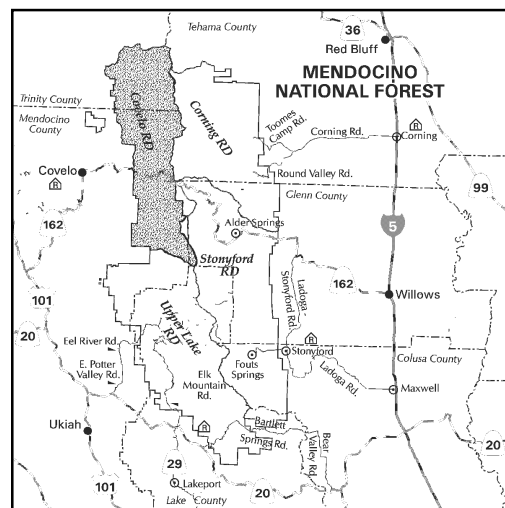
***Covele Ranger District (Mendocino and Trinity Counties)  
Mendocino National Forest – U.S. Forest Service***

**For information:** Call the Region 3 office at (707) 944-5500.

**Location and Access:** From Covele, go east about 13 miles on Mendocino Pass Road.

**Size:** 205,300 acres.

Wild pigs are rare in this district and hunting is considered poor.



***Cow Mountain Recreation Area (Lake and Mendocino Counties) – BLM***

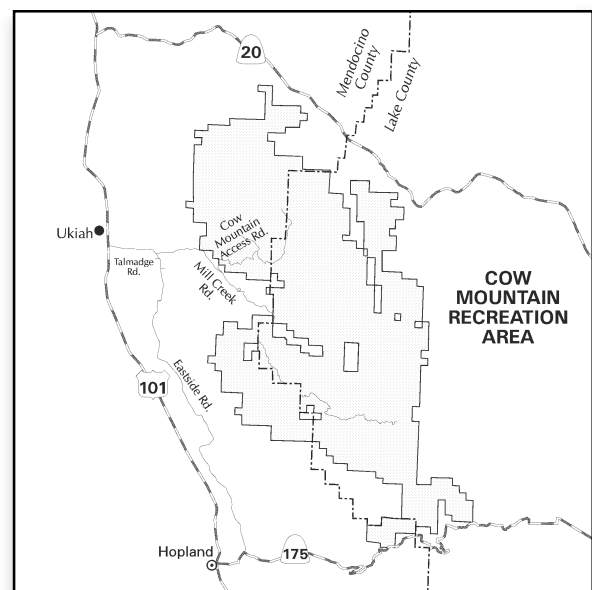
**For information:** Call the BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

**Location and Access:** This large area lies between Ukiah and Clear Lake. From Highway 101 at Ukiah, go east 1 1/2 miles on Talmadge Road, go south 1/2 mile on East Side Road, then go east on Mill Creek Road.

**Size:** 54,000 acres.

This area is open to hunting all year. Most hunters hunt the northern half of the area. There are some campgrounds and off-road vehicle access. The southern portion is subject to periodic closure during prolonged wet weather. Check with BLM for current restrictions.

Wild pig hunting is poor as they are transient and only rarely come across from surrounding private land. In addition much of the area has fairly heavy off-road vehicle use.



**Fort Hunter Liggett – U.S. Department of Defense (Monterey County)**

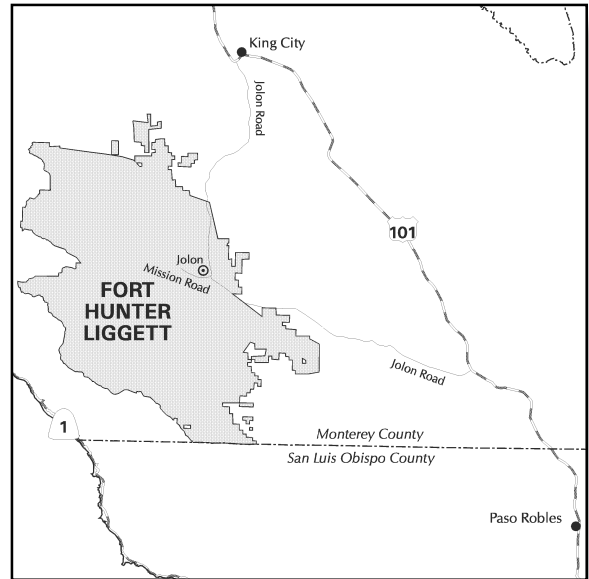
**For information:** Call (831) 386-3310.

**Location and Access:** Approximately 2 miles west of King City. On Highway 101, go southwest about 15 miles on Jolon Road to the Main Gate. Immediately past the gate, turn left off Mission Road and go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the Outdoor Recreation Wildlife check station.

**Size:** About 144,400 acres available for hunting.

Hunting is allowed most weekends and federal holidays, on the units not being used for military training. Information on units available for hunting, fees, hunting times, and other requirements can be obtained by calling the information number. General public reservations are taken from noon to 4:30 p.m. Camping is available.

While the area has good habitat, continual hunting pressure has reduced wild pigs to low numbers. Chance of success partially depends on the units available for hunting. The units that can be hunted on any given weekend are determined by military activities.



**Indian Valley Wildlife Area (Lake County) – DFG**

**For information:** Call the Region 3 office at (707) 944-5500 or the BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

**Location and Access:** Located about 25 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20. Go north on Walker Ridge Road.

**Size:** 4,990 acres.

This wildlife area is open daily for hunting all year. This wildlife area is managed cooperatively with surrounding BLM lands. It is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are restricted at certain times (see Section 265 for details). Camping is allowed, but trailers are not allowed. Wild pigs are very difficult to hunt on this area because of the very dense chaparral that they inhabit.

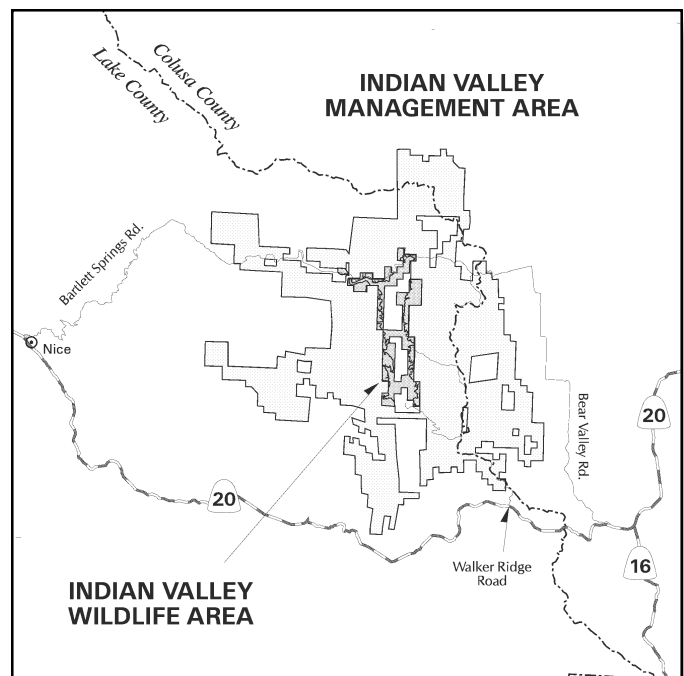
**Indian Valley Management Area (Colusa and Lake Counties) – BLM**

**For information:** Call the BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000.

**Location and Access:** This large area is managed in conjunction with the Indian Valley Wildlife Area. On Highway 20, go about 27 miles west from Williams or 14 miles east from Clearlake Oaks, then go north on Walker Ridge Road.

**Size:** 50,000 acres.

This area is open to hunting all year. Wild pig hunting spots can be found in Cold Springs Canyon, just north of Blue Oak Campground, and the Cold Springs area around Wintun Campground. Hunting is very difficult due to large areas of very dense chaparral.



### *Jackson State Forest (Mendocino County) – CDF*

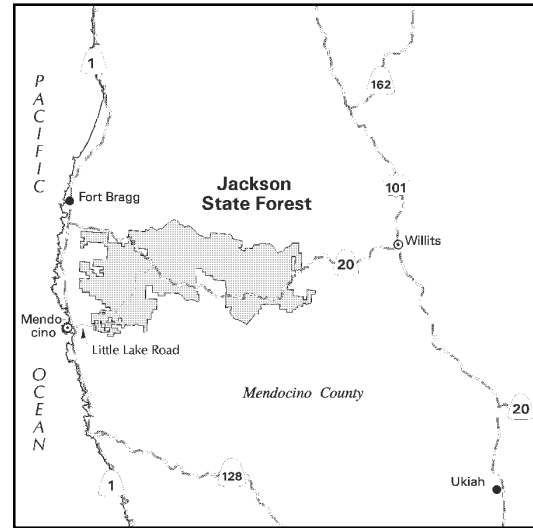
**For information:** Call the state forest office at (707) 964-5674

**Location and Access:** There are four main entry roads into the State Forest: Highway 20 west from Willits, Little Lake Road east from Mendocino, Graveyard Road east from Caspar and Highway 20 east from Fort Bragg.

**Size:** 50,200 acres.

This forest is open daily all year. Limited vehicle access seasonally, vehicles off road not allowed. Camping, with a permit, allowed on designated areas during season. No hunting on areas that are posted as closed. A map of the Jackson State Forest showing campgrounds, areas closed to hunting, and forest roads is available from: Jackson Demonstration State Forest, 802 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

Most of this forest provides poor wild pig habitat, and wild pigs are rare and hard to find.



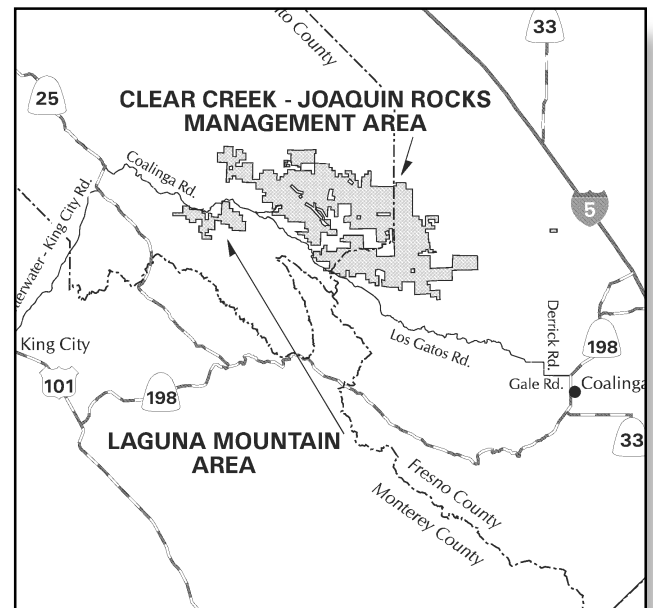
### *Laguna Mountain Area (San Benito County) – BLM*

**For information:** Call (831) 630-5000.

**Location and Access:** From King City at Highway 101, go east  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles on Bitterwater-King City Road to Highway 25. Then go northeast about 2 miles, and then southeast on Coalinga Road to Laguna Mountain Area.

**Size:** 3,000 acres.

Access is by foot only into this area. Wild pigs are very scarce and probably transient.



### *Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area (Sonoma County) – DFG*

**For information:** Call the Region 3 office at (707) 944-5500.

**Location and Access:** North hunt area: From Highway 101, 1 mile south of Cloverdale, take Hot Springs Road west 5 miles to the Yorty Creek Recreation Area check station. South hunt area: From Highway 101, 2 miles north of Healdsburg, take Dry Creek Road west about 11 miles to Rockpile Road near the base of Warm Springs Dam. Take Rockpile Road to Liberty Glen Recreation Area check station.

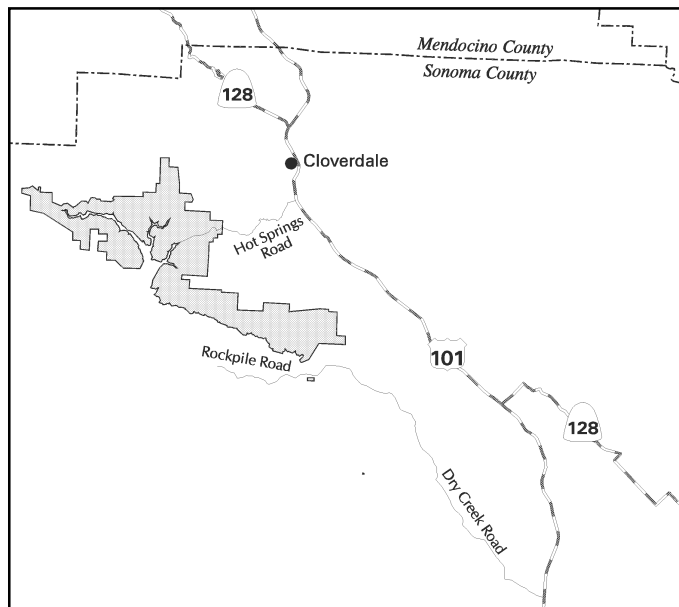
**Size:** 8,000 acres.

This area is open for hunting only during Department of Fish and Game authorized special hunts, and with written permission only, for wild pigs. The Lake Sonoma Wild Pig Hunt is divided into two periods, from November through the following March. Within each period there are two hunt areas providing for different methods of take (archery, shotguns, or firearms). Hunting is by permit only and these are obtained by drawing. These permits must be applied for at the Region 3 office in Yountville.

Weapons, hunter number, and shooting days are restricted as authorized during special hunts. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are not allowed. Camping and trailers are allowed in Army Corps of Engineers designated campgrounds only.

**Special Closures:** No person, except by special authorization of the Department of Fish and Game, shall enter that portion of the Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area marked by signs as “Critical Habitat” during the period of February 1 through August 1.

Some wild pigs are killed each season but success rates are fairly low on this area.



### *Red Mountain Area (Mendocino County) – BLM*

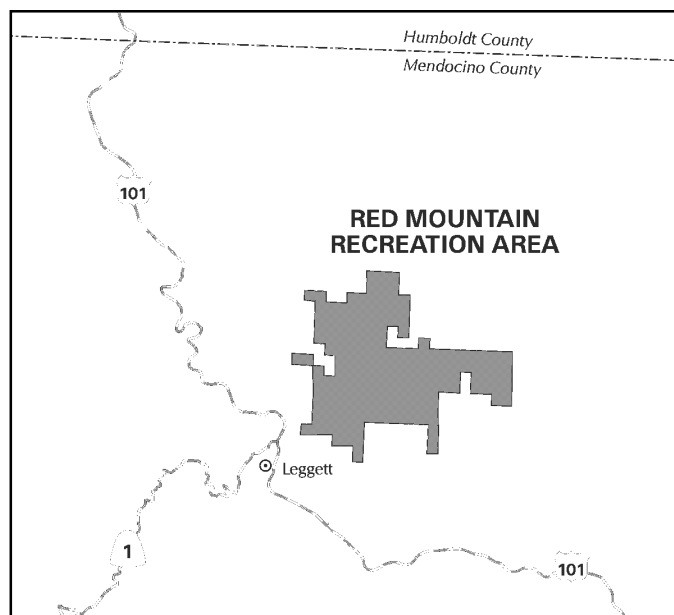
**For information:** Call the BLM Arcata office at (707) 825-2300.

**Location and Access:** From Highway 101, just north of the town of Leggett, go east on Highway 271 and immediately take Red Mountain Road which provides access to the area.

**Size:** 6,000 acres.

This area is open to hunting all year. Much of the vegetation is very dense and difficult to hunt.

Folsom Resource Area - For general information call (209) 985-4474.





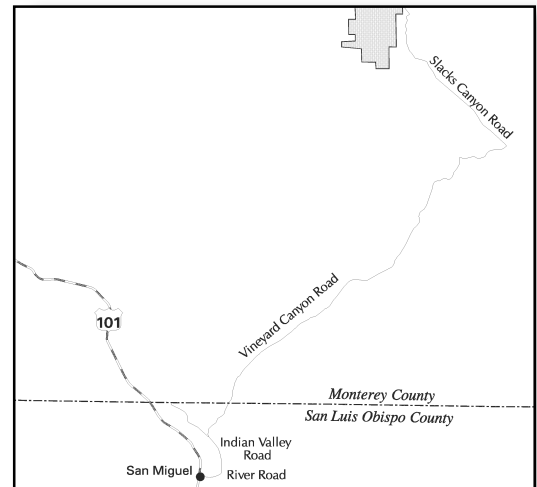
### *Stockdale Mountain Area (Monterey County) – BLM*

**For information:** Call (831) 630-5000.

**Location and Access:** From San Miguel at Highway 101, go east 1 mile on Cross Canyon, and go north about 19 miles on Vineyard Canyon Road. Go west to the end of Slack Canyon Road, northwest of Parkfield. Access is by foot only. The Slack Canyon Road is inaccessible when wet.

**Size:** 3,000 acres.

Access is by foot only into this area. Wild pigs are scarce.



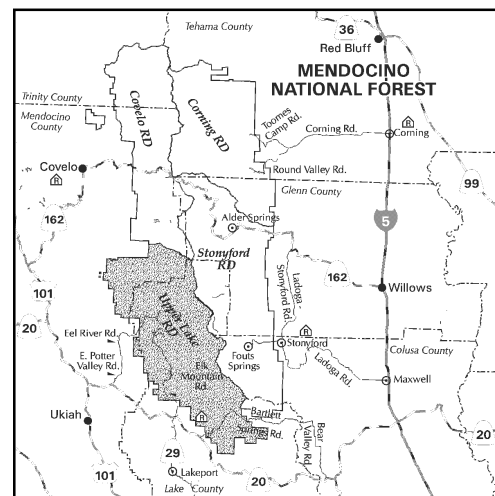
### *Upper Lake Ranger District (Lake and Mendocino Counties) Mendocino National Forest – U.S. Forest Service*

**For information:** Call the Region 3 office at (707) 944-5500.

**Location and Access:** From Lakeport, go north 9 miles on Highway 29 to Upper Lake, then go north about 3 miles on Elk Mountain Road. Call the information number for current access restrictions due to seasonal high fire danger.

**Size:** 262,900 acres.

Hunting is very poor because wild pigs are only transient and mainly live on surrounding private land.



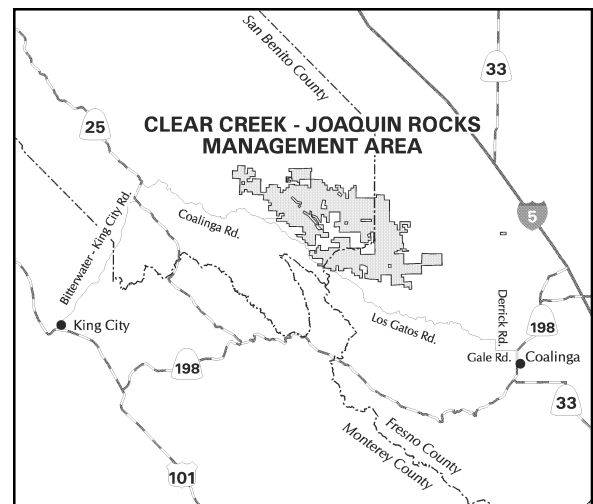
## SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY – SOUTHERN SIERRA

### *Clear Creek Management Area (Fresno and San Benito counties) – BLM*

**For information:** Call the BLM Hollister office at (831) 630-5000.

**Location and Access:** Approximately 35 miles northeast of King City. About 4 miles south of Idria along County Road J1 and the New Idria Road, or along the Clear Creek Road off the Coalinga/Los Gatos Road. **Size:** 50,000 acres.

Wild pig are scarce. Hunting is best on the northeast and southern portions of the area. BLM recommends avoiding the hazardous asbestos area portion of the Management Area (see their map).



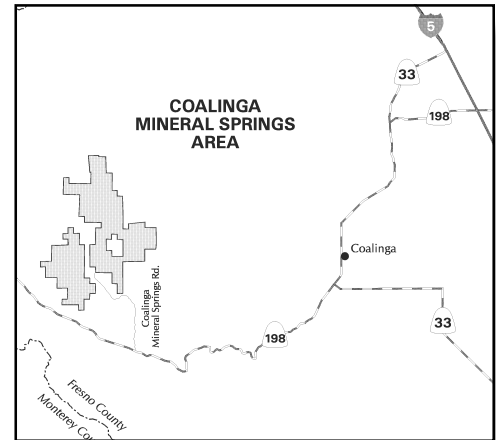
### *Coalinga Mineral Springs Area (Fresno County) – BLM*

**For information:** Call (831) 630-5000.

**Location and Access:** From Coalinga go west about 8 miles on Highway 198, then take the Coalinga Mineral Springs Road.

**Size:** 9,000 acres.

Camping is available in the adjacent Coalinga Mineral Springs Park run by Fresno County. Wild pigs are very scarce and probably transient.



### *Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (Merced County) – DFG*

**For information:** Call the Los Banos Wildlife Area at (209) 826-0463.

Wild pigs are probably only transient visitors to both units of this wildlife area.

#### *Lower Cottonwood Unit*

**Location and Access:** On Highway 152, go approximately 36 miles east from Gilroy or 15 miles west from Los Banos. At the San Luis Creek Recreation Area entrance go north to the parking area. The wildlife area can be reached by hiking.

**Size:** 2,000 acres.

Wild pigs may be hunted daily from the start of the archery deer season through the close of the Zone A deer season. This is a Type C area; no fee is required but self registration is required. Weapons are restricted to shotguns and archery only, except during the archery only deer season, when only archery equipment is allowed. Dogs are not allowed for wild pig hunting. No camping or trailers are allowed on this unit.

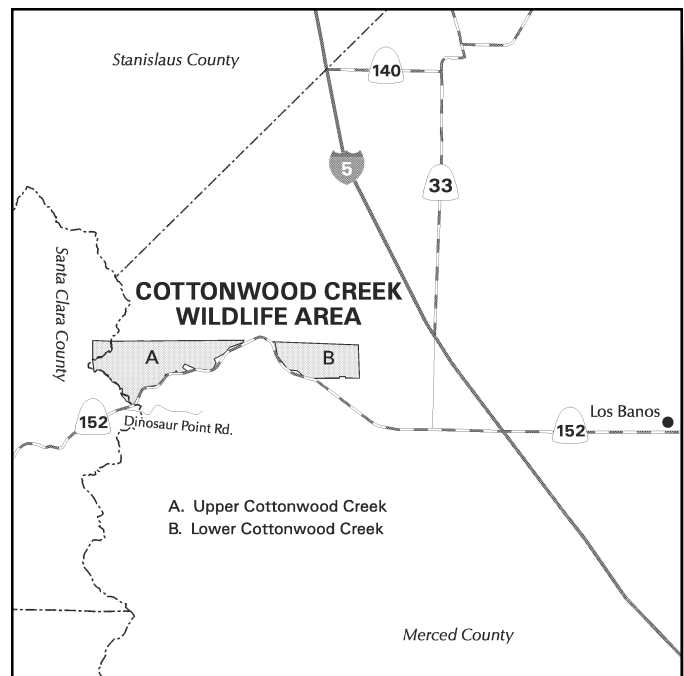
#### *Upper Cottonwood Unit*

**Location and Access:** On Highway 152, go about 30 miles east from Gilroy or 20 miles west from Los Banos. The entrance is north of the highway.

**Size:** 4,000 acres.

Wild pigs may be hunted daily from the start of the archery deer season through the close of the Zone A deer season. During the archery deer season, wild pigs may only be taken with archery equipment.

This is a Type C area; no fee is required but self registration is required; except during the opening weekend of the Zone A firearms deer season, when a special permit obtained by special drawing, is required. Dogs are not allowed for hunting wild pigs. Camping and trailers are allowed in the parking lot only.





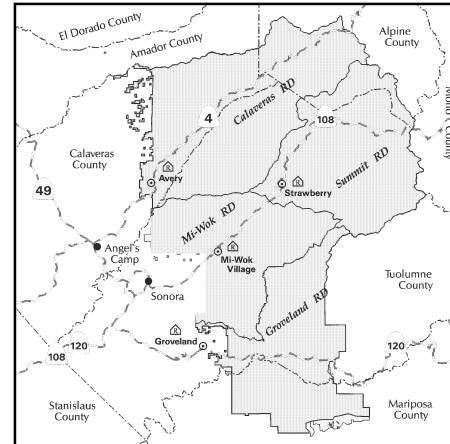
*Groveland Ranger District (Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties) – Stanislaus National Forest*

**For information:** Call (209) 962-7825.

**Location and Access:** From Modesto go east about 52 miles on Highway 132, go northwest 11 miles on Highway 49, and go east about 8 miles on Highway 120 to the ranger district station.

**Size:** 206,700 acres.

Wild pigs are scarce but can be found in the southern portion of this district.



*Hollister Resource Area*

**For information:** Call (831) 630-5000.

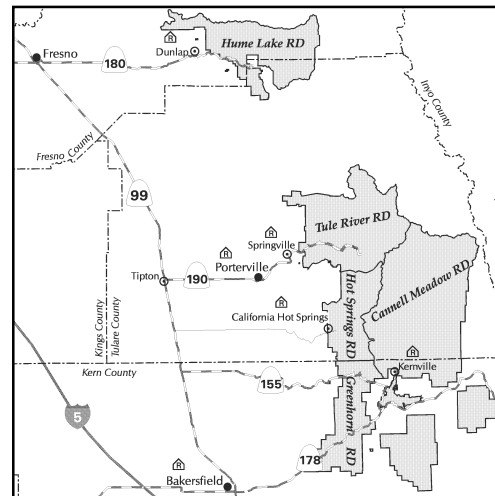
*Hume Lake Ranger District (Fresno and Tulare Counties) – Sequoia National Forest*

**For information:** Call the ranger district office at (559) 338-2251.

**Location and Access:** From Highway 99 at Fresno, go east on Highway 180 about 40 miles to the District Ranger station.

**Size:** 187,900 acres.

Wild pigs are found only at the lower elevations west of Pine Flat Reservoir. The McKenzie/Delilah Area is fairly good during the summer. There is no winter hunting due to snow.

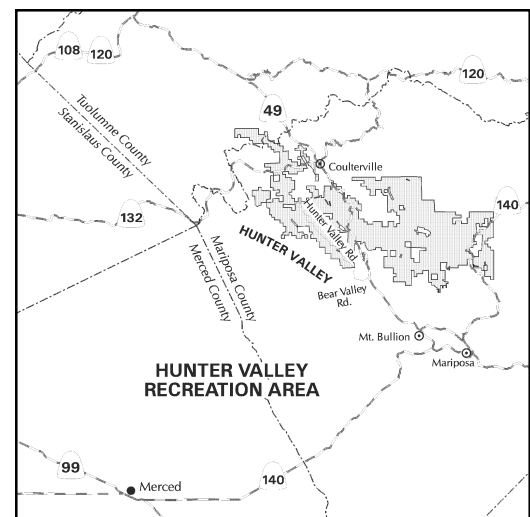


*Hunter Valley Recreation Area, Folsom Field Office – BLM*

**For information:** Call the BLM Mariposa Ranger District at (209) 985-4474.

**Location and Access:** From Merced go east 28 miles to the Mt. Bullion cutoff, go north about 3 miles to Highway 49 just past Mt. Bullion, go northwest about 6 miles on Highway 49 to Bear Valley, go southwest about 1 mile on Bear Valley Road to BLM road, then go north into recreation area.

Wild pigs have recently been found in the area but are still at very low numbers.



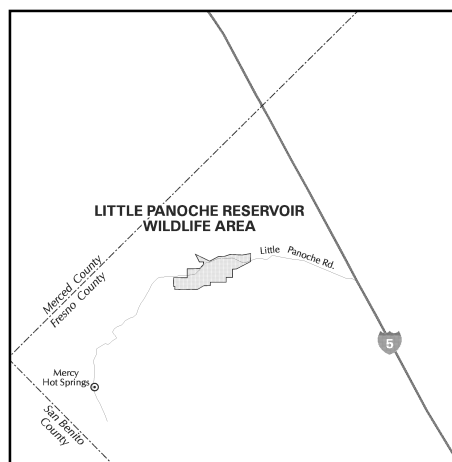
### *Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area (Fresno County) – DFG*

**For information:** Call the Los Banos Wildlife Area at (209) 826-0463.

**Location and Access:** From I-5, about 5½ miles south of the Merced/Fresno county line, go west about 5 miles west on Little Panoche Road. The area is on the southern side of Little Panoche Road.

**Size:** 830 acres.

This area is open daily for hunting. Only shotguns and archery equipment may be used for hunting. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are not allowed for wild pig hunting. Camping and trailers are allowed in the parking lot only. Wild pigs are probably only transient visitors to this wildlife area.



### *San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area (Merced County) – DFG*

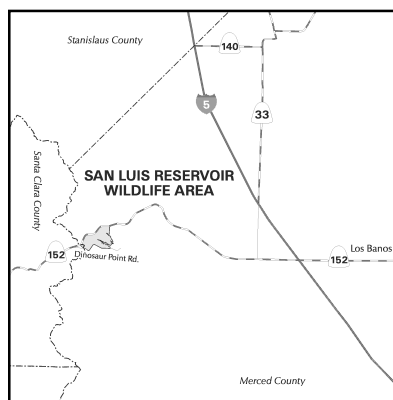
**For information:** Call the Los Banos Wildlife Area at (209) 826-0463.

**Location and Access:** On Highway 152, go approximately 30 miles east from Gilroy or 20 west from Los Banos to the top of Pacheco Pass. Go south on Dinosaur Point Road.

**Size:** 870 acres.

This wildlife area is open daily for hunting. Only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed for hunting. This is a Type C area; no entry permit or fee is required. Dogs are not allowed for wild pig hunting. Camping and trailers are allowed in the parking lot only.

Wild pigs are probably only transient visitors to this wildlife area.



### *Los Padres National Forest*

**For information:** Call (805) 968-6640.

This forest covers a very large area. In general, the farther hunters get from roads and the more time they are able to spend determining where wild pigs are to be found, the better their chance of killing a wild pig.

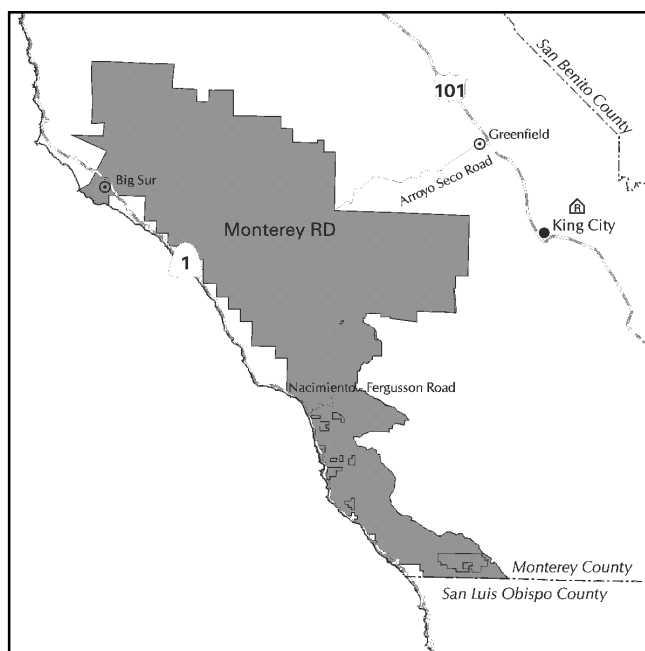
### *Monterey Ranger District (Monterey County) – Los Padres National Forest*

**For information:** Call the ranger district office at (831) 385-5434.

**Location and Access:** This part of the Los Padres National Forest begins about 10 miles south of Carmel and extends down the coast range to the Monterey/San Luis Obispo County Line. One mile south of Soledad on Highway 101, go west about 18 miles on Arroyo Seco Road. Call the information number for current access restrictions due to seasonal high fire danger.

**Size:** 325,000 acres, including the Ventana Wilderness.

The area hard to hunt because it is very brushy and steep. Remote areas of the wilderness offer the best hunting. Wild pigs have been taken in the Chew's Ridge, Upper San Antonio, and Arroyo Seco drainages.



## SOUTH COAST

### *Santa Barbara Ranger District (Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties) – Los Padres National Forest*

**For information:** Call the ranger district office at (805) 967-3481, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Location and Access:** This part of the Los Padres National Forest is roughly bounded by the Santa Barbara County line on the east, the crest of the coast range to the north, about 10 miles to the north of Highway 101 on the south, and very roughly forms a big “U” around Lake Cachuma to the west. From Santa Barbara (at the junction with Highway 101), go north about 3 miles on Highway 154, go east 4 miles to the district ranger office. Call the information number for current access restrictions due to seasonal high fire danger.

**Size:** 290,100 acres.

Low numbers of wild pigs are taken off this district, mainly from the forest lands adjacent to Lake Cachuma.

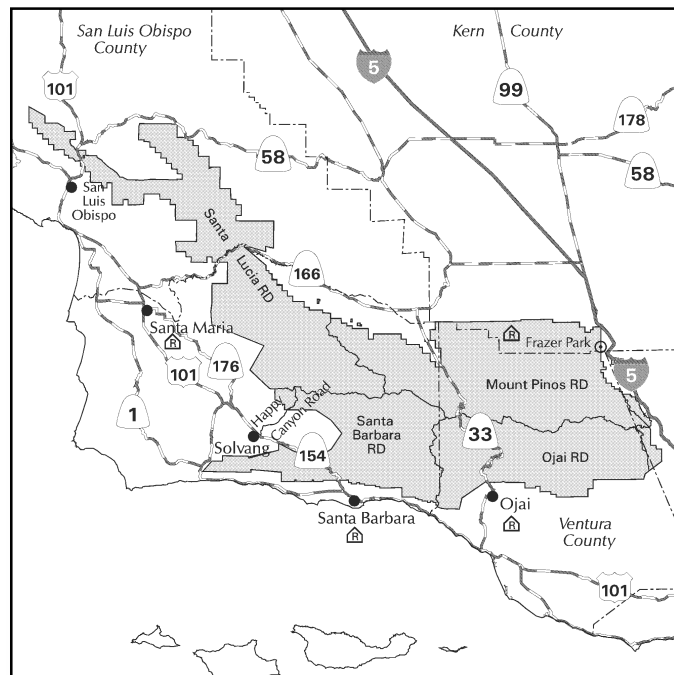
### *Santa Lucia Ranger District (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties) – Los Padres National Forest*

**For information:** Call the ranger district office at (805) 925-9538, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location and Access:** This part of the Los Padres National Forest runs southeast from about Atascadero to the northern boundary of the Santa Barbara Ranger District. For the northern portion: from San Luis Obispo, go north 9 miles on Highway 101, go east on Highway 58 about 3 miles, then go south about 21 miles on Pozo Road to the Block Mountain Area. For the southern portion: from Santa Maria, go north on Highway 101 to the north side of the Santa Maria River, then go east about 19 miles on Highway 166. Call the information number for current access restrictions due to seasonal high fire danger.

**Size:** 538,100 acres.

Wild pigs are found on the forest lands in areas north and east of the town of Pozo.



# GLOSSARY

*EXOTIC* - NOT NATIVE TO CALIFORNIA

*FERAL* - DOMESTIC ANIMALS EXISTING IN A WILD STATE

*FORB* - A BROAD-LEAFED HERBACEOUS PLANT (NOT A GRASS)

*GAMBREL* - A FRAME FOR HANGING CARCASSES FOR BUTCHERING

*HYPOTHERMIA* - A SUBNORMAL BODY TEMPERATURE

*INTRODUCED SPECIES* - THOSE SPECIES THAT MAY BE NATIVE TO CALIFORNIA BUT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO AN AREA WHERE THEY WERE NOT HISTORICALLY FOUND

*INVERTEBRATES* - ANIMALS WITHOUT BACKBONES (E.G. INSECTS, WORMS, ETC.)

*MAST* - ACORNS AND OTHER WILD NUTS

*NOCTURNAL* - ACTIVE AT NIGHT

*OMNIVOROUS* - EATING ANY FOOD, BOTH ANIMAL AND PLANT MATERIAL

*PIED* - CONSISTING OF TWO OR MORE COLORS

*PLAQUE* - THE HEAVY CARTILAGE OVER A WILD PIG'S RIBS AND SHOULDERS

*PRIMITIVE CAMPING* - CAMPING AT A SITE WITH NO WATER, TABLE, FIREPLACES OR OTHER AMENITIES PROVIDED

*RIPARIAN* - THE AREA SURROUNDING A RIVER, STREAM, POND, OR LAKE

*SPINE (ARCHERY)* - THE STIFFNESS OF AN ARROW SHAFT

# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

## DFG REGIONS AND OFFICES

*Northern California-North Coast – Region 1*  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300

*Eureka Office*  
619 2nd Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 445-6493

*Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra – Region 2*  
1701 Nimbus Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900

*Central Coast – Region 3*  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558  
Mail to: P.O. Box 47  
Yountville, CA 94599  
(707) 944-5500

*Los Alamitos Office*  
4665 Lampson Ave., Suite C  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
(562) 342-7100

*Bishop Office*  
407 West Line Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(619) 872-1171

*San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra – Region 4*  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
(209) 222-3761

*South Coast – Region 5*  
4949 Viewridge Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 467-4201

*Inland Deserts-Eastern Sierra Nevada – Region 6*  
284 Harbor Blvd.  
Belmont, CA 94002  
(650) 631-7730

*License and Revenue Branch*  
3211 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 227-2245

*Marine Region*  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive #100  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 649-2970







